

## REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 04, 2009, considered and rejected claims 1-12 and 24-34. Claims 1, 3-12, 24 and 26-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Smith* (U.S. Publ. No. 2002/0152399) in view of *Gilbert* (U.S. Patent No. 5,530,848) and in further view of *Spies et al.* (U.S. Publ. No. 2005/0138353). Claim 24 recites the same limitations as claim 1, were distinguished only by statutory category, and thus rejected on the same basis. Claims 2 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Smith*, *Gilbert*, and in further view of *Callas et al.* (U.S. Publ. No. 2006/0015736).<sup>1</sup>

By this response, claims 1-3, 5, 8, 24, 25, 27, 30, 33, and 34 are amended, while claims 6, 7, 12, 28, and 29 are canceled. Claims 1-5, 8-11, 24-27, and 30-34 remain pending of which claims 1 and 24 are independent. Support for these amendments may be found throughout the specification and primarily in paragraphs 20-26.

The present invention is directed to embodiments for progressively de-featuring a message at each attempt to reprocess the message. This allows for malformed portions of the message to be removed so that the processing can complete successfully allowing the remaining portions of the message to be delivered. The claims have been amended to better clarify how this progressive de-featuring is performed.

Although each cited reference relates to the processing of messages, none of these references discloses repeatedly reprocessing a message after a portion of the message is removed.

*Gilbert* is directed to overcoming problems in SAP systems which do not provide acknowledgement messages when a message is received. *Gilbert* overcomes this problem by generating acknowledgements when a message is received and by periodically sending out status information regarding the processing of the message. *Gilbert*, however, does not address the reprocessing of a message that has failed to process previously. Further, *Gilbert* does not disclose removing a portion of the message prior to reprocessing. The processing of messages in *Gilbert* is also distinct from the processing of messages in the present invention. In *Gilbert*, processing refers to the handling of a business request such as processing an order. This

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<sup>1</sup> Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

processing doesn't occur until the message is successfully received, meaning that it was successfully processed (at a protocol level) and delivered. The present invention relates to processing messages in the sense of delivering messages. If a message cannot be processed, it is not delivered.

Smith likewise fails to disclose reprocessing a message after a portion of the message has been removed. Smith discloses the use of an exploit detector for detecting problem messages and removing portions of the message to scan the removed portion for exploits. However, Smith only discloses that if a problem message is detected, it is sent to a quarantine component. ¶ 66. Smith does not mention that a message can be reprocessed; or further, that it can be reprocessed after removing a portion of the message.

Spies, which was the primary reference cited as teaching the reprocessing of messages, likewise fails to disclose this aspect. Spies is primarily directed to decrypting messages that have been encrypted according to identity-based encrypting techniques. Once a message is decrypted, it can be further processed. However, the processing of the message (as defined in element 90 of Figure 8 which the examiner referenced) is not the same as reprocessing the message after it has failed to process in a previous attempt. The messages in Spies are only processed once. If it is determined that a message is problematic, it may be blocked or edited; however, after this processing the message is not reprocessed. Spies fails to mention that a message, after having failed to process a first time, may be reprocessed a subsequent time after a portion of the message is removed.

In summary, the current amendments make clear that the present invention repeatedly reprocesses a message by removing a portion of the message to allow the message to either be successfully processed or eventually discarded. None of the cited references disclose the reprocessing of messages in this manner. Therefore, Applicant submits that the independent claims are novel and non-obvious over the cited art.

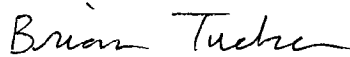
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicant reserves the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the

future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicant specifically requests that the Examiner provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required motivation or suggestion to combine the relied upon notice with the other art of record.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (801) 533-9800.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,



RICK D. NYDEGGER  
Registration No. 28,651  
BRIAN D. TUCKER  
Registration No. 61,550  
Attorneys for Applicant  
Customer No. 47973

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